

# THE OLDTIMER

BALLOT ENCLOSED

Volume 30, Number 4

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

October, 1995

## We have a date

### OCTOBER

■ Ballots should reach members in the Oldtimer at the beginning of the month. Please vote.

■ Heritage Days Events include: **Sept. 27-Oct. 1**, Applegate Wagon Train moves through the valley. **Oct. 7**, Breads and Spreads cooking contest; **Oct. 7-8**, "Hunting Your Heritage"; **Oct. 14**, Historical District open house and quilt show. Call 474-5510 for information.

### NOVEMBER

■ The annual meeting, with potluck and program, is scheduled **Nov. 12, 1:30 to 4 p.m.** We'll announce the winners of the election and other awards. It's at the Izaak Walton Building.

**IMPORTANT:** The agenda includes a vote by members on changes in the constitution and by-laws of the society. To review these prior to the meeting stop by the society. The board of directors feels the changes are in the best interest for a smoother running society.

### DECEMBER

■ The Schmidt House is decorated for the holidays **all month**.

■ The GPHS Flea Market will include a society booth on **Dec. 9**.

■ Schmidt Open House 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with music and refreshments on **Dec. 16**.

For information on any of these events call 479-7827.

## On the move

### Donated house to be relocated this month for new research library

By  
*Edith Decker*

**B**y the time most of you members of the Josephine County Historical Society read this, there will be a major overnight change in the society.

A large house located at 321 S.W. I St. has been donated — along with the costs of moving it to the society's vacant lots next to the Schmidt House — by the Ken Roberts Company.

Jim Savard signed an agreement with the company on Sept. 15 — with fellow board member Robert Hamlyn helping to negotiate. Louis Schultz Jr., our attorney, reviewed the paperwork.

Roberts is planning a new office building on the site and had bought the three older homes there. Two proved too feeble to move or save, but one was in



The Ken Roberts Company's family trust has donated this home and the cost of its move to our lot.

excellent condition. Marilyn Luttrell, who serves on the Grants Pass Historic Buildings and Sites Commission, suggested through Steve Lowotsky and Rob Pochert with the city that the company might wish to donate the house.

After some negotiation, the deal was complete and a mover hired. We hope to have the house in place, at this printing,

See MOVE page 2.

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by Oct. 7 at the latest.

Copies of the agreement are in the library for anyone interested in the details. But briefly, the home will be moved to the lot at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. (The mover's bid was \$9,700.)

In the meantime, the board is trying to get donations to pay the \$5,600 for a new foundation. We hope our members will contribute in this emergency situation.

Then, as we receive donations and community help, we plan to somewhat renovate the house by turning the dining and living areas into one large room for the main library. The bedrooms will be offices with the kitchen and bath, of course, remaining intact. In addition, a large, unfinished attic will offer a great deal of storage and perhaps even a second study room.

The parking areas around the house will be paved eventually. Roberts' company has received some parking privileges as part of the agreement.

In the meantime, a number of people and organizations have donated services in whole or in part to the project: Architect Robert Fisher, board member Fred Clark, the City of Grants Pass, Eric's Tree Service, U.S. West, TCI Cablevision and Pacific Power and Light, among others.

Obviously, getting the house and getting it moved by donation is just the first step. Now the society members have loads of work on their hands. We need donations of money, materials and expertise to get this house made into a home for the research library.

If you can help with this giant project in any way, please call the society. Or send your donations earmarked for the research library project.

It's important to note that this house on the lots doesn't preclude a long-term goal of a brand-new building to house the library. However, that project's price tag is in the millions at this point, while this measure — especially as it's been donated — will hold us over with a great deal more space until that new building is more likely to be a reality.

Here are some specific contributions, besides cash to pay for the foundation, that we need for the project:

- Lumber and construction services to build a plain front porch and two small back porches with railings.
- Long tables (in the 6-foot range) and lots of folding chairs.

- A good, small refrigerator for the kitchen.
- A microwave oven for the kitchen.
- Good fencing.
- Someone with grant-writing abilities to get to work on grants for the house.
- Paving materials and labor for the parking areas.
- Drought resistant plants for landscaping and landscaping help.
- Sundry office furniture and storage units.

## Letters to the editor

### Josephine County Historical Society:

Any place, any time in southwestern Oregon, the majestic peaks of the Siskiyous tease us with their untold stories.

With their forests, rivers, fish and wildlife, they lure us to spend time in this land, encouraging us to explore and understand their secrets. For a few brief moments during April, our community had the opportunity to delve into these mysteries.

Forty-six community partners, 275 volunteers and agency personnel came together to bring "People and the Land" to life for southwestern Oregon. More than 2,300 school children and 3,500 adults participated in this unique event — a milestone that brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds and interests to explore both the past and present relationships between the people and this land we call home.

Without the assistance that was provided by various benefactors, we would not have been able to touch as many people through this educational process.

We especially appreciated the assistance of one of your

members, Larry McLane, who led a tour of mining sites in the Illinois Valley. His presentation was both well researched and entertaining. The tour proved to be one of the highlights of the event.

On behalf of the people of Josephine and Jackson counties, we thank you for your generous support of "People and the Land."

Sincerely,  
J. Michael Lunn,  
forest supervisor, Siskiyou  
National Forest  
David Jones,  
district manager, Medford  
BLM  
Craig Dent,  
event coordinator (Pacific  
Outdoor Alliance)

### Josephine County Historical Society:

We are delighted that you will exchange memberships with our organization and share newsletters.

When people come our way, we will give them your brochure and encourage them to stop and see the Schmidt House and research at your historical society library.  
Barbara Hegne,  
curator, Eagle Point  
Historical Society

## THE OLDTIMER

is the newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society,  
508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.  
(503) 479-7827

Annual membership dues are \$15 and include a subscription.

Edith Decker — editor  
Roger Ramsey — publishing committee chairman  
The circulation of The Oldtimer is 650.

# Mystery photo:

From the "unidentified" file, if you know the names of any of these Republican ladies, call the society: 479-7827.



## In the community

■ **BACK TO THE '50s AND PRETTY FAIR.** Not middle age — the 1950s. And that's the *county* fair. The society sold hot dogs at the street dance for the Back to the 50s celebration and also had a successful booth full of great photos gathered by Joan Momsen at this year's Josephine County Fair. The volunteers who gave their time for a round of booth sitting or hot dog grilling were: Barbara Smith, J.G. Wood, Percy Wetherbee, Betty Yadon Wetherbee, Nora and Victor Sparlin, Ethyle and Ed Lester, Joan Snider, Stephen Ferris, Margaret and Mel Shaw, Doris and John Cova, Edith Decker, Dorothy Francis, Larry McLane, Lee Ann Tardieu, Diane and Barney Breedlove, Nada and Bob Dusslier, Betty Botello, Barbara Clausen, Tom Bristol, Brion Scott, Gerrie Anderson, Jim Savard, Marilyn Luttrell. Also, Izeeta Mays, the Piper Drive-in and Lee Ann Tardieu donated hot dog stuff.

■ **OUR OWN CAVEMEN.** Larry McLane and Roger Lamsey gave presentations at the Oregon Caves annual historical days. Larry talked about "Early Commercialization of the Caves as a Private Enterprise"

and Roger did his mining history exhibit.

■ **ADVERTISING CONVENTIONEERS AMUSED.** Several society members teamed up with the Towne Center Association to host a living history tour of the G Street Historic District. In period clothing, guides were posted outside each historic building to talk with visiting members of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Convention and others about the buildings. The advertisers were especially interested in the "ghost" signs on the outer walls.

■ **APPLEGATE WAGON TRAIN MET.** Michael Oakes represented the society during Heritage Days when the Applegate Wagon Train stopped over in Grants Pass on Sept. 28. Several groups of grade schoolers were held spellbound with his tales of the Applegate Trail. See page 7 for more Applegate Trail information.

■ **PLAYING TO THE SYMPHONY.** Members of the Rogue Valley Symphony Guild were guided through the house by Lyle Felkner and Beverly De Young.



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## History at the center

### By-gone recipes and remedies for mothers

Collected by  
Grace Blanchard

*Editor's note: The following have been culled from the notes of housewives both pioneer and more recent.*

**A**t some time you will have an invalid under your care. A fine remedy for either a sickly child or a disabled adult is oatmeal gruel: Stir two or three large tablespoons of meal in a quart of boiling water, let it boil until it thickens, stirring all the time. When thick, pour into heavy kettle and allow to simmer gently for three or four hours. When thoroughly cooked, thin with rich milk, boil a little longer, add a piece of butter the size of a nutmeg and salt or sugar to taste.

Some persons are fond of boiling a few raisins in the gruel. In that case,

pick every raisin with a fork before cooking; otherwise they are indigestible.

❖

For the adult invalid or the child who WILL NOT EAT, try making toast water: Toast thin slices of wheat bread on both sides. Do not let them burn or blacken. Put the toast in a pitcher with a strainer, and pour over it as much boiling water as needed; the water must be actually boiling at the time it hits the toast. Cover the pitcher and let stand until the water is cold, then pour off water into a decanter. This is a wholesome refreshing drink. (Editor's second note: "Yick!")

To make blackberry brandy: (Now that's better.) Wash and scrape well one pound of green roots of the blackberry vines; boil in one quart of good water until water is reduced one-half. Add one pint of best brandy. This

is a most excellent remedy for diarrhea. (Well it sounded better.)

❖

It is a well known fact that first children are the victims of a young mother's ignorance.

Most mothers appear to forget that children are exceedingly susceptible to the influence of cold. While adults can protect themselves with flannel from neck to feet, children are made to go decollete and with ankles or knees bare to gratify parental vanity.

Any medical man will testify that the parts of the body to be particularly protected are under the knees, the armpits and the stomach. Never forget! "Heads cool. Feet warm!" Avoid low necks, short sleeves and fashionable short socks if you truly love your child. Many cases of consumption manifested later in life are traced to neglect of dress.

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(503) 479-7595

**POTLUCK IS  
GOOD LUCK**

**Don't forget the annual meeting**

**Nov. 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the**

**Izaak Walton Building**

**in Riverside Park**

◆

You are cordially invited  
to attend a free seminar  
Understanding Living Trusts  
&  
How to Avoid Probate

The program will include a slide presentation and time for general questions

◆

Date: Friday, November 17, 1995

Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Location: The Schmidt House

Presented by: Sharon Parks, Western Bank  
Vice President and Senior Trust Administrator

◆  
Space is limited. Please RSVP by calling 479-7827.

Deadline to reserve a spot is November 3.

Individual appointments lasting up to 30 minutes will be available  
between 1 and 5 p.m. if requested.

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## History at the center

Continued from page 4.

Great attention should be paid to the ventilation of the whole house, but particularly of the nursery and sick room.

Change the air as often as possible by throwing open the windows both in summer and winter. Choose a time when the children are in another room as a window open in a room while the little people play on the floor is a fruitful source of croup or sore throat.

An admirable food for teething children is a flour ball.

Tie in a thick cloth, as tightly as possible, a bowl of dried flour. Drop in pot of cold water, bring to a boil and boil steadily for three hours. Hang up to dry without opening the bag.

In 24 hours it will be fit for use. Peel off crust and grate as needed. Blend one tablespoon with cold water and stir into boiling milk.

Strawberry Water is a good remedy for dysentery. Wash the green, fresh leaves of the strawberry plant and pour boiling water over them. Let stand until cold. Strain and sweeten to taste. The patient may wish to drink it iced.

Flaxseed Tea is a good cold remedy. Pour a quart of boiling water over two tablespoons of flaxseed. Cover and put in a warm place to steep. Add the juice of one lemon and the rind cut into strips. Then sweeten to taste.

Head cheese: Butchering day is a busy day for the ladies. After the meat is prepared for smoking, canning or pickling, and some set aside to eat fresh, the best part of the pork, the head, should be made into head cheese.

To prepare, first scrub the head clean. Bake at least four hours in a

slow oven until the meat is tender enough to slip easily off the skull.

Cut lean meat into small pieces and season with a little sage, salt, pepper, garlic and onion. Put in square pan to bake for one hour. The juice is poured over this in order to jell when set and cooled. Then cut into squares and serve.

(How many times did everyone say, "Oooooo" while reading that? The things the pioneers had to do ...)

Now here's a last recipe that really does sound good:

Tea Punch, an old German recipe: Rub six lemons over half a pound of loaf sugar and squeeze juice over it. Pour over this two quarts of boiling water. Make a good strong pint of black tea. Add to the punch and put in as much rum as desired.

The housewife will find it's good for that most pervasive of ills — unexpected company.

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## Valley of the Rogue Bank

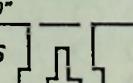
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# Election of Officers

## Ballot of Officers and Board for the Josephine County Historical Society, 1996

### OFFICERS

(for a one-year term of office, the calendar year 1996)

#### For Vice President (president-elect)

Voter Voter

#1 #2

Roger Ramsey

Or your write-in \_\_\_\_\_

#### For Treasurer

Gerrie Anderson

Or your write-in \_\_\_\_\_

#### For Secretary

Lee Ann Tardieu

Or your write-in \_\_\_\_\_

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(two-year terms 1996-97; vote for each chairman)

Voter Voter

#1 #2

Finance Chair, Jim Savard

Membership Chair, Joan Momsen

Properties Chair, Mel Shaw

Exhibits Chair, Joan Snider

Publishing Chair, (seat vacant)

Publicity Chair, Stephen Ferris

Board Development Chair, Tom Bristol

Historic Sites Chair, (seat vacant)

Volunteer Coordinator Chair, Gloria Clark

Programs Chair, (seat vacant)

Or your write-ins for any of the above chairs: \_\_\_\_\_

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

(two-year terms 1996-97; 13 individual positions are available, for vote for 13.)

Voter Voter

#1 #2

Rick Alves

Jim Clark

Edith Decker

Sherm Heater

Chuck Schilder

Virginia Steimer

Gordon Bowen

Judy Boling

Barbara Clausen

Dorothy Francis

Mike Peil

Louis Schultz, Jr.

Percy Wetherbee

Or your write-in \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your completed ballot to the society: 508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

Mark "Ballot Enclosed" and respond by Nov. 10, 1995.

### Instructions:

In compliance with JCHS bylaws, we present to the membership the names of those nominated to serve for office and on the board.

■ The write-in candidates must be enrolled members of the society and be willing to serve.

■ A paid family membership allows the family two votes on the same ballot.

■ Ballots received after Nov. 10, 1995, will not be counted.

■ Note that three board seats remain unfilled. The nominating committee will make every attempt to fill the chairs expediently.

Volunteers are welcome.

— Tom Bristol, chairman of the nominating committee

# Words from the bookshop

## Some Christmas ideas that support the society

By Nancy Surran

With Christmas season fast approaching, we'd like to feature some books from the Schmidt House Bookshop for your gift-giving consideration.

Call or come in for additional titles. A gift and/or a membership certificate would be a very thoughtful gift this holiday season — a benefit to those on your list as well as the society.

Also, society members get a discount on JCHS-published books.

■ "101 Best Fishing Trips in Oregon," \$5.50. Each trip guarantees a memorable experience.

■ "Blossoms and Branches," \$10.95. Rogue Valley orchard memories.

■ "Brewed in the Pacific Northwest," \$12.95. Tour Oregon and Washington microbreweries past and present — either from your chair or in person.

■ "The Eagle and the Fort," \$5.95. The Story of John McLoughlin, Oregon's benefactor.

■ "Golden Fire," \$10. Ashland's Oregon Shakespeare Festival history.

■ "Guide to Oregon's Rogue River Basin," \$10.50. Covers Southern

Oregon's geography, ecology, plants and wildlife.

■ "Mill Creek Journal," \$12.95. 1858 murder in Ashland — a whodunnit from real history that the author solves for the first time.

■ "Oregon Atlas and Gazetteer," \$14.95. Includes 85 topographical maps covering the entire state.

■ "Oregon for the Curious," \$5.50. Covers Oregon from A to Z. Lists state parks, rivers, museums, etc. A perennial favorite.

■ "Oregon's Golden Years," \$9. Covers the search and mining for gold in 1845 onward with plenty of photos.

■ "Oregon the Way It Was," \$11. Pictorial view of the years 1905 through World War I. Researched captions.

■ "Patchwork," \$9.95. Memories of the Rogue Valley.

■ "Rivers of the West: Volume II," \$9.95. Chronicles the adventures of Joe Meek during his years in Oregon.

■ "Tall Tales from the Rogue River," \$11.95. Famous mule skinner, mail packer Hathaway Jones spins his yarns.

■ "Whitewater Mailmen," \$12.95. Story of the Rogue River mail boats since 1895.

**"...For the delivery of mail to those living in remote cabins along the lower Rogue, the use of individual mail bags came into practice about 1910. Small canvas bags were sewn by the river residents with their names on them. They were kept at the Wedderburn post office and when a letter came in, it was put in the proper bag."**

-excerpt from  
"Whitewater Mailmen" by Gary  
and Gloria Meier

## Applegate Trail events busting out all over

As the Applegate Trail nears its sesquicentennial in 1996, a number of groups both local and state-wide are working to mark the birthday.

The nearest event on the agenda is the wagon train due through town the end of September. The train plans stops at the Josephine County Fairgrounds, Pottsville, Sunny Valley, Canyonville and Myrtle Creek between Sept. 27 and Oct. 1.

For information on the wagon train, call the Grants Pass Visitors and Convention Bureau, 476-5510.

Meanwhile, the state-wide Applegate Trail Coalition, which includes one of our members, Marilyn Luttrell, is working on getting signs up along the trail's route once

again.

Josephine County has made a bid to have the trail's interpretive center, as well, but much more planning still needs to be done before that's a reality.

For information on that project and future plans, call (503) 773-6536, the Southern Oregon Historical Society, or leave a note for Luttrell at the Schmidt House.

As for our own society, we plan a salute to the Applegate Trail with our calendar, due out this year the end of November. It will be your next mailing from the society and features original art work by Pat Bristol depicting the major players in the drive West on the Applegate Trail.

# Thanks

Over the years, the society has been supported by a few generous bequests and many gifts, both large and small. We would like to thank the following members for gifting us with an extra contribution since our last newsletter:

Arden McConnell  
Al Tillery  
Judy Boling  
Tommy Thompson  
Dorothy Francis  
Bruce H. Ferguson  
Ivan R. Smith

And another thank-you to those executive board members who have forwarded cash to the society to pay for the foundation on the new research library:

Tom & Pat Bristol  
Mel & Margie Shaw  
Joan Momsen  
Janet Lane  
Judy Boling  
Edith Decker

## In memorium

The society regrets to inform the membership that the following members have passed away since our last newsletter:

Charles Tycer

Charles W. Baird

## Happy news

Two long-time volunteers and supporters of the society have married.

Betty Yadon and Percy Wetherbee were married Sept. 9 at the home of the groom's sister, Lyle Felkner.

We wish them every happiness.

## THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

Josephine County Historical Society  
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